

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method of cutting sheet material comprising the steps of:

(a) engaging a first side of the sheet material with a first crack initiator having a high rake angle, the crack initiator extending from a first cutter base having a low rake angle;

(b) simultaneously engaging a second side of the sheet material with a second cutter;

(c) generating a first crack in the first side of the sheet material with the first crack initiator;

(d) engaging the sheet material with the cutter base of the first cutter by moving the first cutter perpendicular to the sheet material; and

(e) further propagating the first crack using a rake edge of the cutter base, thereby disengaging the first crack initiator of the first cutter from contact with the sheet material.

2. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

continuing to propagate the crack through to the second side of the sheet material using a rake edge of the cutter base.

3. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

(a) generating a second crack in the second side of the sheet material with the second cutter; and

(b) propagating the first crack to intersect with the crack propagating from the second cutter.

4. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:

the second cutter includes a second crack initiator extending from a second cutter base.

5. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the sheet material comprises a laminated web structure and
the first crack initiator has a height that is greater than a thickness of a protective laminate or coating on the first side of the laminated web structure.
6. (original) A method as recited in claim 4 wherein:
the second crack initiator has a height that is greater than a thickness of a laminate or protective coating on the second side of the laminated web structure.
7. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the high rake angle of the first crack initiator is in the range of from about 30° to about 70°.
8. (original) A method as recited in claim 7 wherein:
the low rake angle of the cutter base of the first cutter is at least about 15° less than the high rake angle of the crack initiator.
9. (original) A method as recited in claim 4 wherein:
the high rake angle of the second crack initiator is in the range of from about 30° to about 70°.
10. (original) A method as recited in claim 8 wherein:
the crack initiator has a relief angle greater than 0° and not more than about 30°.
11. (original) A method as recited in claim 10 wherein:
the cutter base of the first cutter has a relief angle of not more than about 30°.
12. (canceled)
13. (canceled)
14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the sheet material comprises a laminated web structure and
the first crack initiator has a height that is greater than a thickness of a protective coating on the first side of the laminated web structure and is at least 15 μm .
16. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the sheet material comprises a laminated web structure and
the first crack initiator has a height that is greater than a thickness of a protective coating on the first side of the laminated web structure and is at least 20 μm .
17. (original) A method as recited in claim 7 wherein:
the high rake angle of the crack initiator is not less than about 40° .
18. (original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein:
the high rake angle of the crack initiator is not less than about 45° .
19. (withdrawn) An apparatus cutting for cutting sheet material comprising:
(a) a first cutter including a first crack initiator extending from a first cutter base, the first crack initiator having a high rake angle in the range of from about 30° to about 70° , the first cutter base having a low rake angle that is at least about 15° less than the high rake angle of the first crack initiator, the first crack initiator having a height of at least 5 μm , the cutter base having a relief angle that is greater than 0° and less than about 30° ; and
(b) a second cutter opposing the first cutter;
20. (withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in claim 19 wherein:
the second cutter includes a second crack initiator extending from a second cutter base.
21. (withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in claim 19 wherein:
the first crack initiator has a relief angle of not more than about 30° .

22. (withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in claim 21 wherein:
the first crack initiator includes a relief edge that is either straight or curved.
23. (withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in claim 21 wherein:
the cutter includes a cutter base having a rake edge that is either straight or curved.
24. (withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in claim 23 wherein:
the first cutter base has a relief edge that is either straight or curved.
25. (withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in claim 19 wherein:
the high rake angle in the range of from about 40° to about 70°.
26. (withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in claim 19 wherein:
the high rake angle in the range of from about 45° to about 70°.
27. (withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in claim 19 wherein:
the first crack initiator has a height of at least 15 μm .
28. (withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in claim 19 wherein:
the first crack initiator has a height of at least 20 μm .